SPAWN
RORY McCONVILLE
CARLO BARBERI
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RORY McCONVILLE
CARLO BARBERI
BARBERI '21

SPAWN

SPAWN'S UNIVERSE 92 21

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PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

After a vicious battle with one of the Vampire Clans in which Spawn refuses to make a alliance, Spawn summons the undead to end the fight quickly. Hurt, he escapes back to his lair...alone.

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TODD McFARLANE
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SINCE ARRIVING IN THIS ERA SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, THE TRIBE OF GOBLINS HAD SECLUDED ITSELF, ONLY VENTURING OUT AT NIGHT TO HUNT ANIMALS.
MANY OF THEM HUNGERED FOR RICHER FLESH THOUGH, SO WHEN THE LOOKOUT SPOTTED A LONE FIGURE STRIDING TOWARDS THEIR CAMP, EVERY MEMBER RUSHED FOR THEIR WEAPONS, DESPERATE TO AVOID BEING LEFT WITH SCRAPS.
IT WAS ONLY AS THE FIGURE DREW CLOSER THAT THEY RECOGNIZED HIM AS A FELLOW REFUGEE FROM THEIR OWN TIME, ONE WHO HAD BUTCHERED HUNDREDS OF THEIR SPECIES.
BY THAT POINT, IT WAS TOO LATE TO RUN.
no...

not again.
what's happening to me?
FOR WEEKS NOW, MARC HAS BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHERE HE GOES WHEN MEDIEVAL SPAWN'S PERSONA TAKES HIS PLACE.
EVERY TIME HE TRANSFORMS BACK, HE SENSES THE MEMORY OF A DARK, SCREAMING VOID. NOW, AS BEFORE, HE STRAINS TO HOLD IT IN HIS MIND... BUT WITHIN SECONDS, THAT MEMORY'S GONE.
IT'S NOT EASY, IS IT MARC?

JIM?!
holy shit, WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? WHEN YOU DISAPPEARED FROM THE HOSPITAL I THOUGHT, I DON'T KNOW, THAT THEY'D GOTTEN TO YOU.
THEY TRIED.
SO, I LEFT-- HAD A LOT TO PROCESS FROM THE LAST FEW MONTHS.
THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE GRAPPLING WITH THIS MADNESS.
HOW'D YOU FIND ME?
DOESN'T MATTER, HOW ABOUT WE GET OUT OF HERE, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT A FEW THINGS.

THERE'S BEEN AGENTS FROM BOTH SIDES AFTER ME PRETTY MUCH SINCE I WOKE UP, SO, FOR THE MOST PART, I'VE JUST BEEN TRYING TO STAY AHEAD OF THEM.
DOWNTOWN DINER
GOOD FOOD
AIR CONDITIONED
YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH... OTHER THAN SOME NONSENSE WITH SPAWN.*
*See issue #312 – Todd
AND WHAT *LECTURE* DID YOU GET FROM HIM?
SAME ONE YOU'VE GOTTEN I'M SURE. THAT MAN'S GOOD AT PLAYING SELF-RIGHTEOUS.
TELL ME ABOUT IT. HE JUST KICKED ME OUT OF HIS HOUSE RECENTLY.
I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, WONDERING IF YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN TEAMING UP AGAIN? LIKE BEFORE. UNLESS YOU'RE STILL WORKING WITH AL...?
WELL, I *WAS.* DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THAT RIGHT NOW.
THAT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME.
JIM, I NEED TO ASK, HOW ARE YOU STILL ALIVE? YOU WERE NEAR DEATH LAST TIME I SAW YOU, NOW HERE YOU ARE ACTING LIKE EVERYTHING'S NORMAL.
MY LIFE'S SO FAR FROM NORMAL, YOU CAN'T IMAGINE. IT'S WHY I'M LOOKING FOR SOME HELP. BET YOU COULD USE THE SAME.
I'M FINE.
YEAH? WHAT ABOUT THE HELMET? HOW LONG'S *THAT* BEEN GOING ON?

COUPLE MONTHS, I GUESS. I WAS MESSING AROUND WITH IT ONE NIGHT AND IT KIND OF ATTACHED ITSELF TO ME.
TRIED GETTING RID OF IT A FEW TIMES BUT IT JUST APPEARS, FROM NOWHERE, WHEN IT FEELS LIKE IT.
AND WHEN IT DOES, THE NEXT THING I KNOW, I'M WAKING UP IN SOME FIELD OR FOREST, SURROUNDED BY MAGGOT GUTS OR DEMON CORPSES.
AND IF I'M BEING PERFECTLY HONEST, FEELS LIKE I'M LOSING CONTROL OF MYSELF JUST A BIT.
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS KIND OF CRAP A HUNDRED TIMES, SO I'M NOT TELLING YOU ANYTHING YOU DON'T ALREADY KNOW, I'M JUST NOT WIRED FOR THIS STUFF.
WHAT ARE YOU WIRED FOR?
THE SAME THINGS I HELPED YOU WITH, ORGANIZING, SCHEDULING, ACTUAL HUMAN SHIT. I LITERALLY CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I ACTUALLY DID SOMETHING NORMAL.
I MEAN, RELATIVELY SPEAKING.
MARC, CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
FIRE AWAY.
DO YOU TRUST AL?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT'S NOT A TRICK QUESTION.
I... YEAH.. LIKE I SAID, HE CAN BE A BIT OF AN ASSHOLE SOMETIMES, BUT I GUESS I DO.

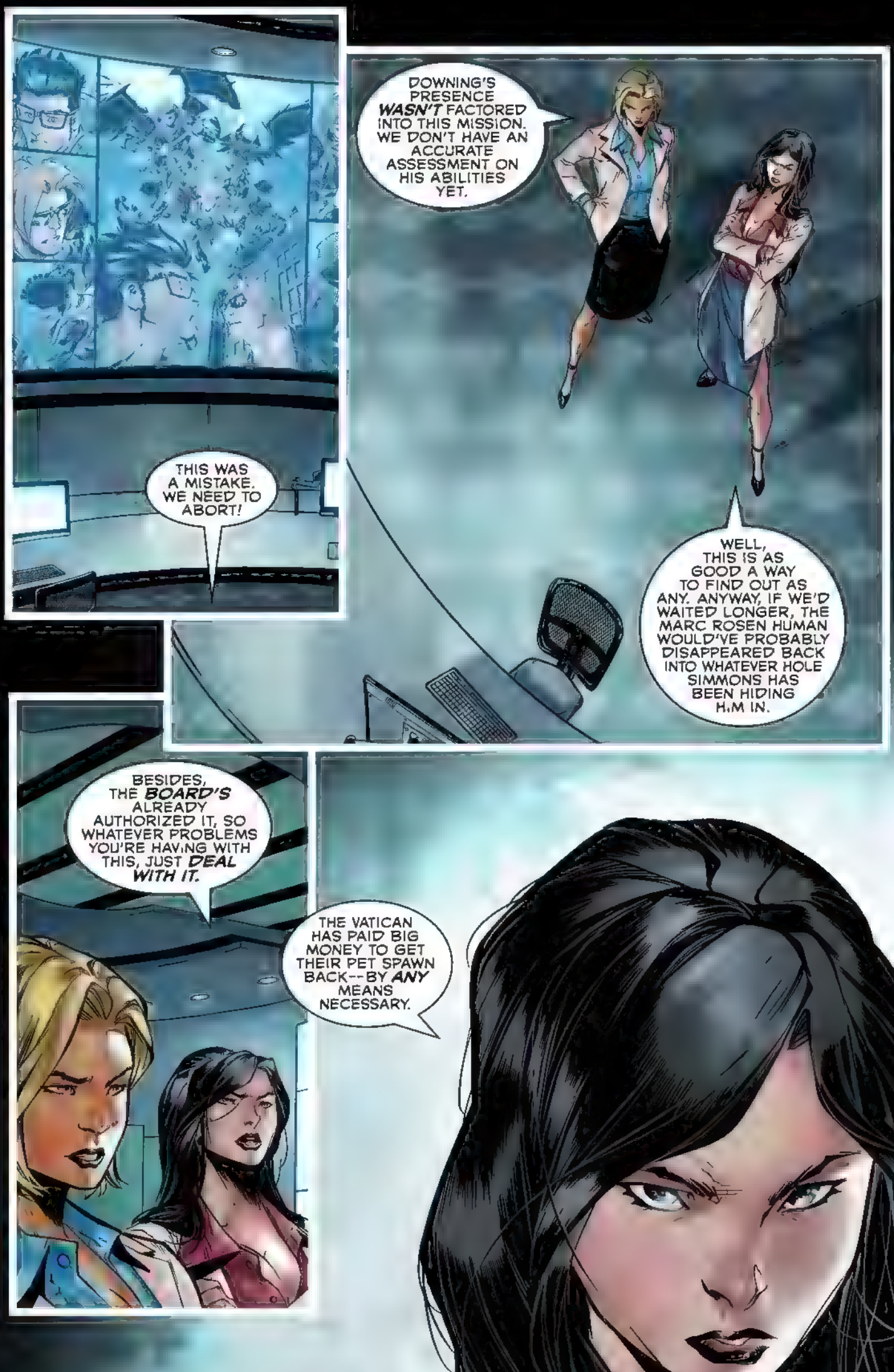
THEN WHY HAVEN'T YOU TOLD HIM ABOUT THE HELMET?

LOOK, I'M SURE AL MEANS WELL. BUT WE BOTH KNOW HE'S NOT EXACTLY THE MOST STABLE GUY, AND THAT'S A PROBLEM.

"BECAUSE, I DON'T KNOW IF HE DOESN'T REALIZE IT OR JUST DOESN'T CARE, BUT EITHER WAY HE'S ON THE VERGE OF BRINGING THE WHOLE WORLD DOWN WITH HIM.
"NO! HE JUST KEEPS CHARGING FORWARD AND HALF THE TIME IT'S LIKE HE'S TRYING TO GET HIMSELF KILLED. AND IF IT WERE JUST HIS LIFE AT STAKE, I'D LEAVE HIM AT IT, BUT THIS IMPACTS ALL OF US."
"HE'S ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT SAVING HUMANITY BUT HE'S TURNED THE PLANET INTO HIS PERSONAL WAR ZONE. HE RIPPED A HOLE IN TIME, FOR F*CK'S SAKE, YOU THINK HE'S EVER STOPPED TO THINK THAT MAYBE HE'S DOING MORE HARM THAN GOOD?
SO, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
JUST THAT A TIME'S GOING TO COME WHEN WE ALL NEED TO DECIDE IF IT'S IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST FOR AL TO WIELD SO MUCH POWER AT ONCE.
IF THE ANSWER'S NO, I NEED TO BE ABLE TO COUNT ON YOU.
SHIT, DUDE! YOU WANT TO STAGE A COUP?
IF SO, WHO'S GOING TO TAKE AL'S POWER? YOU?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING. I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE OUR ENEMIES' NUMBER ONE TARGET ISN'T CONSTANTLY PUTTING HIMSELF AT RISK OF BEING CAPTURED. OR KILLED.
11'-10"
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT JESSICA AND I WERE TRYING TO DO, WE WERE TRYING TO CONVINCE HIM IN THE VALUE OF BUILDING AN ARMY SO HE DOESN'T HAVE TO RUN EVERY MISSION HIMSELF.
AND HOW'S THAT BEEN WORKING OUT?
SHITTY.
LOOK, DESPITE WHAT AL MIGHT THINK, HE'S JUST ONE MAN. HE DOESN'T KNOW EVERYTHING.
HE KNEW SUSAN WAS DEAD. SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T.
YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M SORRY ABOUT SUSAN. I SHOULD'VE SEEN HER--
MARC ISN'T PAYING ATTENTION, INSTEAD HE'S TURNED TOWARD THE RUSH OF A SUDDEN WIND GUST

SECURE THE
HELLSPAWN!!


THIS WAS A MISTAKE. WE NEED TO ABORT!
DOWNING'S PRESENCE *WASN'T* FACTORED INTO THIS MISSION. WE DON'T HAVE AN ACCURATE ASSESSMENT ON HIS ABILITIES YET.
WELL, THIS IS AS GOOD A WAY TO FIND OUT AS ANY. ANYWAY, IF WE'D WAITED LONGER, THE MARC ROSEN HUMAN WOULD'VE PROBABLY DISAPPEARED BACK INTO WHATEVER HOLE SIMMONS HAS BEEN HIDING H.M IN.
BESIDES, THE *BOARD'S* ALREADY AUTHORIZED IT, SO WHATEVER PROBLEMS YOU'RE HAVING WITH THIS, JUST *DEAL WITH IT.*
THE VATICAN HAS PAID BIG MONEY TO GET THEIR PET SPAWN BACK--BY *ANY* MEANS NECESSARY.

MARC, GRAB THE HELMET AND PUT IT ON!
I DON'T...
JUST DO IT!
JIM DOWNING PUTS A VICE GRIP ON MARC'S ARM. THEY NEED TO GET AWAY FROM HERE. NOW.
HANG ON, THIS MAY HURT!
MOMENTS LATER, BATHED IN A GREEN GLOW, THEY MATERIALIZE SEVERAL MILES AWAY, OUT OF ANY PUBLIC VIEW.
SOMETHING'S WRONG--THEY NEVER ATTACK WHERE HUMANS COULD SEE THEM!
PROTECT YOURSELF, MARC!

ALMOST FROM THE MOMENT HE ARRIVED IN THE 21st CENTURY MEDIEVAL SPAWN WAS A PRISONER
TO HIM, THE 21st CENTURY IS A WORLD OF PAIN
IT IS A CRAMPED CELL DEEP UNDERGROUND AND AN OPPRESSIVE LIGHT SEARING HIS FLESH
IT IS A SET OF CHAINS KEEPING HIM FIXED IN PLACE
IT IS THE LAUGHTER OF GUARDS AND THE HISSING OF RATS

AFTER OBTAINING HIS FREEDOM, HE MADE TWO VOWS
FIRST, THAT HE WOULD NEVER BE A PRISONER AGAIN
SECOND THAT HE WOULD NO REST UNTIL HE HAD PAID EVERY ONE OF HIS CAPTORS BACK TENFOLD
HE INTENDS TO KEEP BOTH VOWS NO MATTER WHAT
SO WHILE THESE FIVE ANGELS ARE THE FIRST TO TASTE HIS BLADE...
THEY WILL NOT BE THE LAST

UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, THE FORCES OF HEAVEN AND HELL WOULD'VE NEVER DARED LAUNCH SUCH A PUBLIC ATTACK
BUT THE OLD RULES ARE COMING UNDONE, AND DAY BY DAY, SPAWN'S ENEMIES ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THEY DON'T NEED TO HIDE IN THE SHADOWS ANYMORE
shit.
AS MEDIEVAL SPAWN READIES FOR ANOTHER ONCOMING ATTACK, JIM DOWNING SENSES HIS UNSTABLE POWERS BEGINNING TO WANE ONCE MORE
WHAT ARE YOU--
TIME TO GO.

THE TWO HEROES RETURN TO WHERE DOWNING HAS BEEN HIDING HIMSELF
GET YOUR HANDS AWAY FROM ME, BOY! WHERE HAVE YOU TAKEN US?
SOMEWHERE SAFER. IF WE'D STAYED, THEY'D HAVE HAD US SURROUNDED.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE FORTITUDE FOR BATTLE, BE YOUR OWN COWARD. I'D RATHER FIGHT MY ENEMIES.
THEN YOU'RE A FOOL! AND AS LONG AS YOU'RE USING MARC'S BODY, I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE HE STAYS IN ONE PIECE.
FINE... BUT YOU--YOU BEAR THE MARK OF HEAVEN AND HELL... LIKE SOME ABOMINATION.
I'LL EXPLAIN THAT LATER... I'M JIM DOWNING, BY THE WAY.
YOU STAND BEFORE SIR JOHN OF YORK. WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT--IS WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU LOYAL TO?
THE ONE THAT KEEPS US ALL ALIVE.
INCLUDING YOUR HOST, MARC. HE AND I PLAN ON WORKING TOGETHER, WHICH MEANS YOU AND I ARE GOING TO BE SPENDING A BUNCH OF TIME TOGETHER.
IT'D BE BEST FOR BOTH OF US IF WE JUST ACCEPT THAT FACT AND KEPT FOCUS ON OUR COMMON ENEMIES.

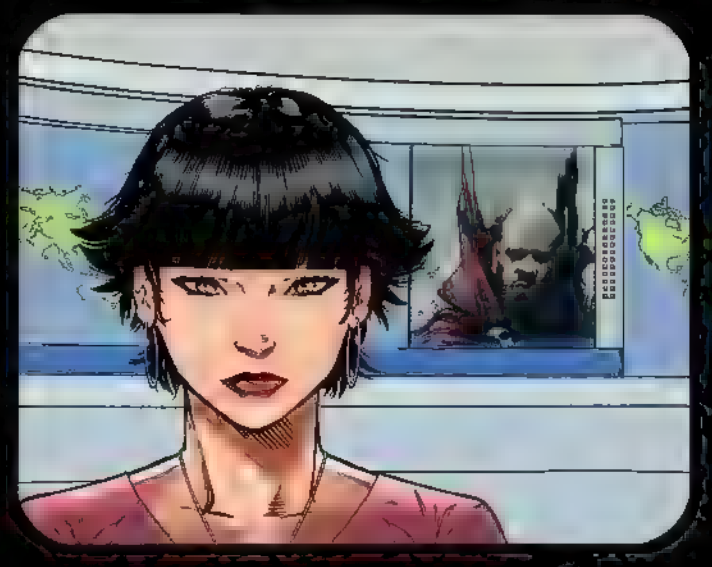
"KEPT FOCUS"? I'M UNFAMILIAR WITH THOSE WORDS.
NEVER MIND. WHAT WE BOTH KNOW IS HEAVEN HAS BECOME AS CORRUPTED AS HELL IN THEIR QUEST TO ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS. THE QUESTION WE NEED TO ASK IS, WHAT ARE THOSE GOALS? AND WHY? YOU'VE GOT WAY MORE EXPERIENCE WITH ALL THIS SO I'LL FOLLOW YOUR LEAD.
YOU INTRIGUE ME.
AND I SENSE, FROM MARC ROSEN'S MEMORIES THAT HE TRUSTS YOU. SO, FOR NOW I'LL DO YOU THE FAVOR AND LOWER MY SWORD.
DON'T EXACTLY KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, BUT I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE CONFIDENCE.
LET US BE CLEAR, ABOMINATION. YOU MAY HAVE PROVEN USEFUL TODAY, TOMORROW IS ANOTHER TEST. I'VE SEEN FAR TOO MUCH BETRAYAL IN MY TIME. I'LL ALWAYS BE GUARDED.
AND WHILE MARC ROSEN MAY TRUST YOU, I RESERVE JUDGEMENT. I WILL BE WATCHING YOU.
CLINK
MY BODY... I CAN'T KEEP TH.S UP.

AND THOSE ANGELS... GUESS THEY DIDN'T KILL US?
NO.
MEDIEVAL, DID *HE* SAY ANYTHING HELPFUL?
AFRAID NOT. JUST DISAPPEARED ONCE WE GOT AWAY.

AS FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO KEEP THIS UP, YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. YOU NEED TO TO BRACE YOURSELF BECAUSE UNTIL WE WIN THIS WAR, FORCES ARE GOING TO BE COMING FOR YOU EVERY DAY--FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
LIKE THEY DID WHEN I AWOKE THE FIRST TIME.* SIMMONS DIDN'T ASK IF WE WANT TO BE INVOLVED, HE JUST PULLED US IN BECAUSE WE WERE USEFUL TO HIM, PROPS HE CAN USE IN HIS WAR.
SO, ASK YOURSELF--WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF YOU'D BEEN CAPTURED? IF I HADN'T BEEN THERE OR YOU HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET THE HELMET ON IN TIME?
* Way back in issue #185 – Todd

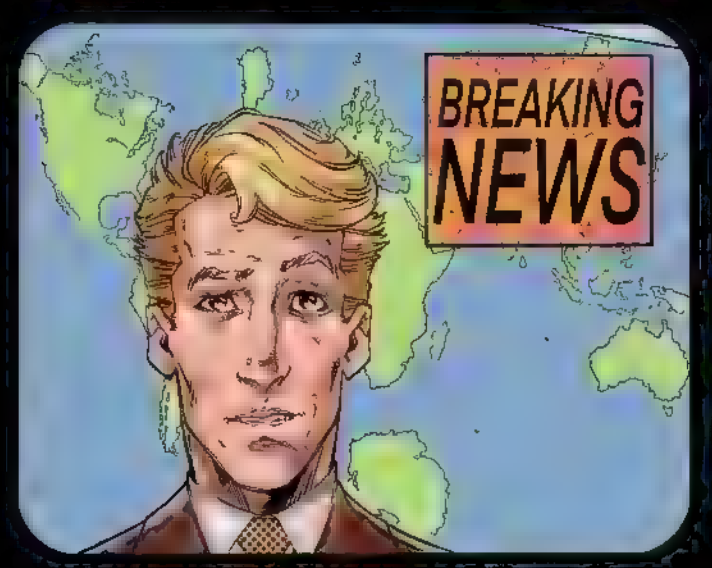
WOULD AL HAVE COME TO RESCUE YOU? SHIT, WOULD HE HAVE EVEN NOTICED YOU WERE MISSING?

I NEED YOU TO THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT THAT, MARC.
I'LL BE IN TOUCH SOON.



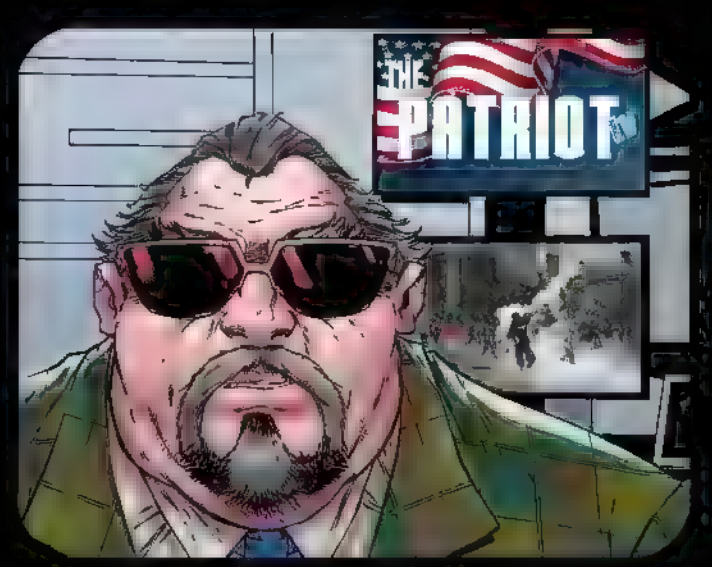
--JUST THE LATEST IN A NUMBER OF MARCHES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE AROUND THE COUNTRY IN RECENT WEEKS. THE MOVEMENT, WHICH IS DEMANDING GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY FROM THE GOVERNMENT, EMERGED IN RESPONSE TO A PAIR OF INTERVIEWS GIVEN BY THE CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE, LIEUTENANT COLONEL AL SIMMONS, SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

THIS BEGAN AS A REQUEST FROM SIMMONS FOR US IN THE MEDIA TO QUESTION ALL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT--ESPECIALLY THE MILITARY--ABOUT CERTAIN REMARKABLE EVENTS WHICH HAVE TRANSPIRED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. THERE NOW APPEARS TO BE A LINK BETWEEN SOME OF THOSE...



THERE'S BEEN AN UPTICK IN SIGHTINGS OF ***STRANGE*** HUMANS DRESSED IN THE ***SAME*** TYPE OF COLORFUL COSTUME THAT ***AL SIMMONS*** HAS CHOSEN TO WEAR, LOOKING FOR ALL THE WORLD LIKE SOME KIND OF COMIC BOOK ***SUPERHEROES.*** THIS TREND HAS BEEN A CATALYST FOR THE MARCHES FOR INCREASED ***ACCOUNTABILITY*** NOW TAKING PLACE IN MAJOR CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. TODAY'S GATHERING IN CHICAGO LOOKS TO BE ONE OF THE LARGEST ***YET.***

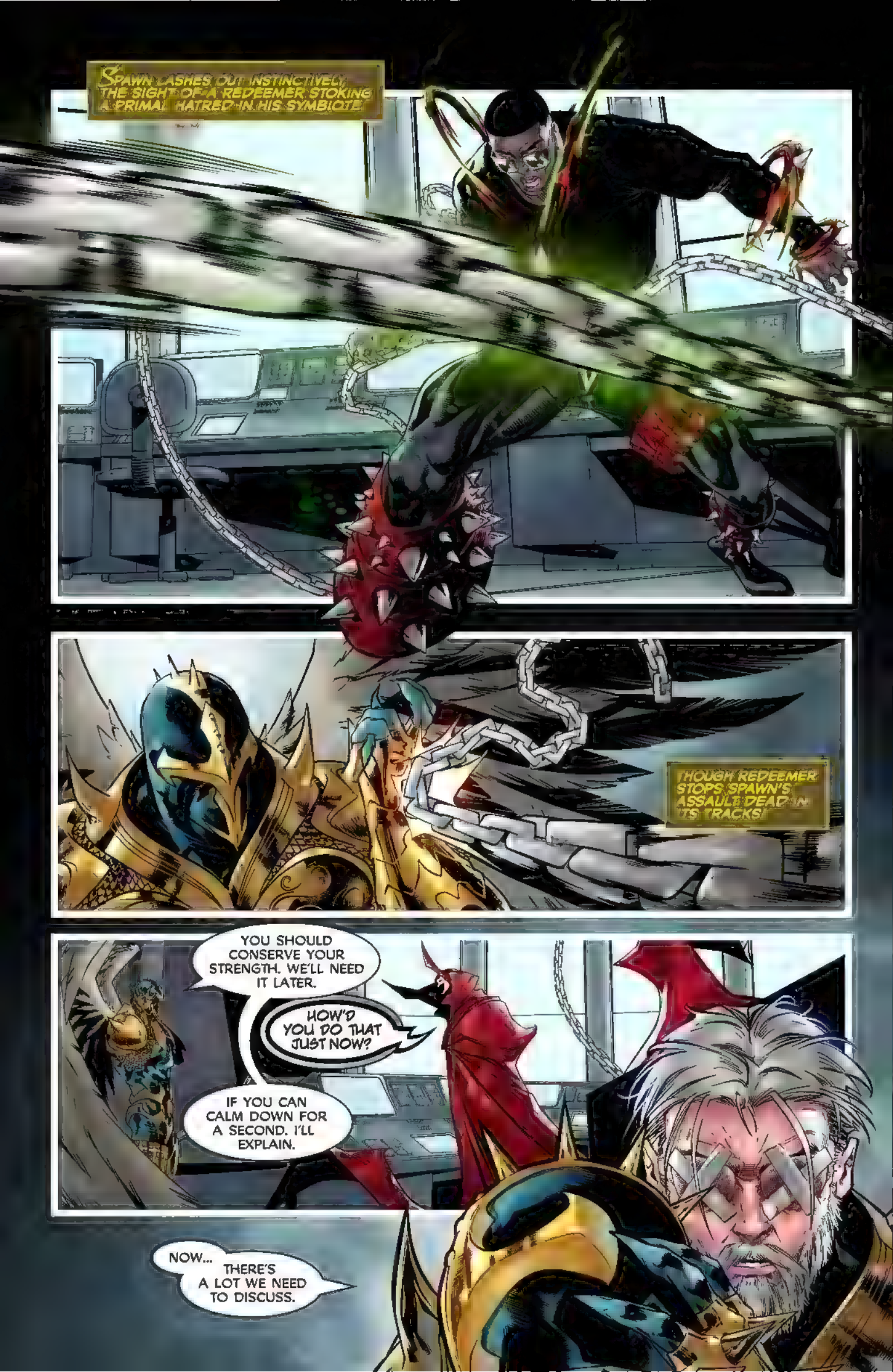
WITH THIS FERVOR ONLY ***CONTINUING*** TO GROW, OUR SOURCES SUGGEST THAT A NATIONWIDE MARCH HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON ***NEXT MONTH.*** EARLY ESTIMATES SUGGEST THAT THERE COULD BE ***AS MANY AS*** 200,000 PEOPLE, ARRIVING FROM ACROSS THE ***COUNTRY,*** PROMPTING CONCERNS FROM HEALTH OFFICIALS ABOUT--



LOOK...! I'M ALL IN FAVOR OF A ***REVOLUTION,*** FOR PUSHING BACK AGAINST ***BIG GOVERNMENT,*** BUT CAN SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT THESE IDIOTS ARE EVEN ***HOPING*** TO ***ACHIEVE?*** *"ACCOUNTABILITY." "TRANSPARENCY."* GIVE ME A BREAK. ***THAT'S*** NOT HOW ***TRUE*** PATRIOTS DO IT. WE DON'T ***ASK.*** WE ***DEMAND!***

THAT'S WHY THESE MARCHES DON'T HAVE A HOPE OF ***SUCCEEDING. REAL*** CHANGE? I'M ALL FOR THAT... BUT ***THIS...*** THIS IS JUST A ***PANTOMIME,*** A GODDAM CIRCLE-JERK *PHOTO OP* FOR A BUNCH OF CONSPIRACY-MAD ALT-RIGHT FANATICS AND A WHOLE ARMY OF ANTIFA GROUPS... ***BOTH*** OF 'EM, ***WORKING TOGETHER...*** TO TAKE THEIR SELF-OBSESSED AGENDAS AND ALL PAT THEMSELVES ON THE BACK, THINKING THEY'RE THE ***ALL-ENLIGHTENED*** ONES. WELL, I'M BETTING THE GOVERNMENT BOYS WILL HAVE A ***FEW THINGS TO SAY*** ABOUT ALL THIS. ***MY*** MONEY IS ON ***DRONE*** STRIKES. ***THAT'S*** WHERE THE BLACK BUDGET DOLLARS HAVE BEEN GOING, BELIEVE-YOU-***ME!***

TWO DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE HIS CONFRONTATION WITH THE VAMPIRE GENERAL CALLED REBIRTH, YET HIS WORDS STILL ECHO IN SPAWN'S EARS.
REBIRTH WAS A ZEALOT, BUT THERE WAS TRUTH IN WHAT HE WAS SAYING. AT SOME POINT, TO WIN THIS WAR, SPAWN WILL INEVITABLY NEED TO ALLY HIMSELF WITH SOME OF HIS MOST DETESTED ENEMIES.
SAFETY
NEWS
THE QUESTION IS, HOW FAR IS HE WILLING TO CORRUPT HIMSELF FOR THAT POTENTIAL VICTORY?
DOESN'T LOOK GOOD, DOES IT?
HOPE YOU'RE GRASPING THE SEVERITY OF THE SITUATION WE FACE.


SPAWN LASHES OUT INSTINCTIVELY, THE SIGHT OF A REDEEMER STOKING A PRIMAL HATRED IN HIS SYMBIOTE
THOUGH REDEEMER STOPS SPAWN'S ASSAULT DEAD IN ITS TRACKS!
YOU SHOULD CONSERVE YOUR STRENGTH. WE'LL NEED IT LATER.
HOW'D YOU DO THAT JUST NOW?
IF YOU CAN CALM DOWN FOR A SECOND. I'LL EXPLAIN.
NOW... THERE'S A LOT WE NEED TO DISCUSS.

1:4:6:8

SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS:

THE BREAKDOWN

LAST MONTH WAS SPAWN-O-WEEN!

Some of the coolest Spawn-themed costumes by some of the coolest Spawn fans.

SAM | TWITCH | SHE-SPAWN | CLOWN | BILLY KINCAID

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THE SCORCHED

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SPAWN 325

DECEMBER 2021

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